

# THE WARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT.

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## Gov. Folk As A Graft Killer

### Popular Missouri Executive Gives Noteworthy Address at Opera House Saturday Night—His Views on Commission Government, Free Passes, Initiative and Referendum, Etc.

Ex-Gov. Folk, the great little statesman from Missouri, addressed a large crowd of the best citizens of this city at the Opera house Saturday night, when he spoke for nearly two hours on "The Era of Conscience."

The governor was introduced by Ex-Governor Devine, who paid him the highest kind of a tribute, linking his name with those of Gov. Hughes, of New York, Gov. Johnson of Minnesota, Gov. LaFollette of Wisconsin, Wm. J. Bryan and others.

As the bright eyed little man with the mild voice, but a tenacity of purpose, stepped to the front, he was greeted by great applause. He paid a high tribute to Minot, "The coming metropolis," he termed it, and said we had a lot of aggressive citizens here. He was pleased to meet so many former Missourians, not in the fact that they were fugitives from their native state, for he said that they would be more than welcome to return at any time.

He then plunged into his subject, which he has studied in a practical way for years. He told of the graft that had been practiced in the state legislature of Missouri; how the legislators had accepted thousands of dollars for their votes, and then openly boasted of the fact. The legislators had accepted thousands of dollars for their votes, and then openly boasted of the fact. The legislators had accepted thousands of dollars for their votes, and then openly boasted of the fact.

The people have finally awakened to the fact that it is wrong to take money for giving their votes, the vote that belongs to the public. Mr. Folk referred to the corrupt condition of the city of St. Louis a few years ago, seven aldermen out of thirteen being found guilty of accepting large sums for the public service franchises.

"No one ever heard of graft money being paid for any law that is of benefit to the public. Such money is always paid for a law that will benefit the few," is one of the terse statements that he made. "A dozen right thinking men, who are aggressive, and who do not fear the consequences, can yield a great influence for good in any city, if they take concerted action, and practically graft in every form can be stamped out," is another of his characteristic statements.

At a banquet in the city of St. Louis, eight prominent public men of that city attended, and as the band played "The Star Spangled Banner," there was a great demonstration. One of the men declared that he loved his country, and if need be, would die for it. Three days later, that same man was arrested on the charge of bribery, and convicted. Gov. Folk says, "I think just now that it is more important that we have men who will live for one's country, rather than die for it. While I have all due respect for the men who have fought on the field of battle, for this nation, the men who will come out in the open and oppose graft in all of its forms, is doing just as noble an act."

We were more than glad to hear the governor's views on the free pass question, the we could not see how they could be other than they were. He accepted as a for one concession in this enlightened day and age, the legislature could not rise on

free passes, and still retain their independence. The Missouri legislators may have arrived at this stage of perfection, but the Governor does not know those from North Dakota very well.

### The Commission System of Government

The governor touched briefly upon the commission system of government as practiced in a number of the more important cities, and says that this form of government is being agitated all over the country. He is heartily in favor of it. The system is such that each commissioner is responsible for a certain kind of work, and much more for the general welfare can be accomplished than under the old council system.

### Gambling

The public looks upon gambling in all of its forms in a manner different from that which it used to. The Louisiana lottery which was once thought to be all right, has passed away. Gambling is done now more and more behind closed doors. The race track gambling in some states, Missouri, and New York, notably, has been done away with. There is a law in Missouri which makes it a felony to post bets at a race meeting. When Folk was governor, he enforced the law strictly, and one racing association closed the gates and posted the sign: "Owing to the tyrannical act of a tyrannical governor, this race track has been closed indefinitely," and it was never opened thereafter.

The governor has seen a continual stream of young men sent to the penitentiary, many for stealing, embezzling, etc., and they got their downward start thru losing money at the races, and the state was a party to the crime, in accepting licenses.

### Liquor Traffic

The governor says that if the officials desire, the liquor laws can be enforced. There is a general apathy towards enforcing such laws, and he says it is really hard to enforce them, on account of the influence that those men wield. So many are interested, in some way or another.

### Should Remove Officials

The governor believes that each state should have a law, giving the governor of the states, power to remove from office any state's attorney or any sheriff, who does not do his duty. Such officers can then be excused for enforcing the law strictly, and their friends will not dare to ask them to overlook certain individuals.

### Initiative and Referendum

Missouri has an initiative, and a referendum law, which the governor says is a good thing. Missouri's initiative law is like this: Eight per cent of the voters of two-thirds of the legislative districts, may petition for a new law, which at the following general election, will be voted upon. If at that time, a majority of all the voters, vote in favor of such a law, it becomes one of the laws. The voters may petition in the same manner, to have any law already on the statutes, referred to the people.

### Primary Election Law

Missouri has a primary election law, which the governor, says is imperfect, and yet it is much better than the old convention system. The people have had a taste of the law, and will never be satisfied to go back to the old convention system. The bosses can still get in their work, to a certain extent, but not like they used to.

The address was right to the point, and so opportune for North Dakota in the present day. The governor has been thru the mill, he was governor for four years during the most exciting period, when many wealthy men were sent to prison. He said that the corporate influences and money had been responsible for his defeat for the senate last year, but said that he would never give up. As long as he had the power of speech, he would hold it for awakening the public conscience, and in the end right would win.

## McCOY'S GREAT KNIFE SALE

Paul V. McCoy has a most attractive window, displaying knives and cutlery of various kinds. His fifty cent knives are so fine that if one did not know Mac's buying ability, one would be more than likely to think that he had picked up a case or two of them for nothing. They are of all kinds, fine pearl handled knives, and the stuff in them is first class. He is selling a pair of shears at 12 cents that is a dandy article. He buys his knives and shears in extra large quantities, and gets the right prices.

## Soo Deposited \$40,000 In Minot Bank

### Supt. W. A. Cole Places Large Sum in the Bank as Payment for Seven Lots for Passenger Depot Site

W. A. Cole, superintendent of the Soo deposited \$40,000 in one of the Minot banks to be used in purchasing seven lots in block 20, of the townsite of Minot, for the site for the new Soo passenger depot. Now that the title to the old Hoff lot has been quieted, it is expected that there will be no further difficulty in the matter, and it is expected that the deal will be completed within a short time. The Soo evidently means business.

## Red Headed School Ma'am Resigns

A red headed Minot school ma'am was given a gentle hint by the school board that her resignation would be accepted if she felt as tho she had accomplished all the good that was possible, and the resignation was forthcoming almost immediately. However on the last day in her room, she lambasted one of her pupils unmercifully for a trivial matter. She left for Milwaukee, and it is hoped that she can find the right niche to fit in.

## Something About Lightning Rods

(12026) J. H. asks: What is the consensus of authority and scientific opinion on the true value and usefulness of lightning rods as a means of protecting buildings from strokes of lightning? Do they afford real protection? Are they worth what they cost, in preventing fire? Doubtless you know how opinions differ on this subject. Many people declare that lightning rods are worse than useless; they actually invite danger. Others contend that they are as necessary as fire insurance in every well-regulated establishment. A. We are of the opinion that lightning rods are a distinct advantage to a building in the open country and in thinly built portions of a city; also upon tall spires and chimneys in any part of a city. The method of protection to be employed has been many times discussed in our paper. You will find a note in the Queries column of our issue, Vol. 99, No. 16, October 17th, 1908, which you must have on file. The Weather Bureau publications named therein will be a sufficient guide to you. Lightning rods not only greatly reduce the damage to the building upon which they are used when struck by lightning, but actually decrease the liability of disruptive discharge of atmospheric electricity occurring at all when they are present in quantity. The town of Johannesburg is a notable example; electric storms were so frequent there and the resulting damage so great that nearly every building in the town was protected by lightning rods. Now lightning in the common sense of the term is most rare there, the formerly common electric storms being dissipated by brush discharges on the forest of lightning conductors.

B. F. Warren of Minot is sole agent of W. J. C. Shinn's system of copper cable lightning protection. Will call on you soon.

Thru the courtesy of J. C. Worley of Gallon, O., we received a copy of the Cleveland, O., Press, under date of April 22, telling of the fearful cyclone which struck Cleveland, killing four, and injuring many. The loss to factories and other buildings amounts to a million dollars.

Notice for Sealed Bids. Sealed bids will be received for the construction of the Pleasant Valley Farmers Telephone Company until April 30th, 1909, for specifications please consult Citizens State Bank of Max or Earl Seward, secretary of Telephone Co. on section 15, range 151-82. The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. A certified check of \$50.00 must accompany all bids. E. L. Seward, Secretary. Max, N. Dak. 4-25 4-29 chg

## New Spring Jewelry

New tasty styles in belt pins ..... 75c to \$4.00  
 New catchy designs in scarf pins ..... 50c to \$50.00  
 New creations in brooches ..... 75c to \$75.00  
 New patterns in Ladies' cuff links ..... 50c, 75c and up

All the up-to-date jewelry to suit all tastes

### W. H. REIGHART

The Exclusive Jeweler

## Ditcher Moves Slowly

### Stones on Belyea Avenue Retard Progress of Big Machine—Second Machine Coming—Sublet Contracts

Contractor Kennedy is progressing fairly well with the laying of the water mains. The ditching machine does excellent work—where there are no stones, but on account of the presence of too many niggerheads, was able to ditch only from First to Fourth street on Belyea avenue the first week. A good many men have been put to work in other parts of the city and are going ahead with the ditching. Another ditching machine from Denver is expected here any time, and if necessary Mr. Kennedy will put a night crew on the two machines. He has sublet the contract for erecting the pumping station, and the filtration plant, and material is on the ground for this work. We will have the new system installed all right, before winter, tho the contract is one of the largest ever undertaken in the state.

## Short State Stories

### Items of Interest Boiled Down for Busy Readers

Deering has subscribed \$275 for its ball team. The News figures that Kermit will spend \$50,000 on new buildings this year.

The dray ordinance at Tower has been repealed, and now one can haul without restrictions.

Williston voted almost unanimously for a new school building which will be completed before fall.

The Ross Valley News, which has been improved in a notable manner, has added a nice job equipment.

Lansford young ladies gave a strictly all "hen" party recently, and the young men are talking about it.

Alaska wheat is being sold by Bottineau capitalists and costs only \$20 a bushel. Tho't the bubble had burst.

Gen. E. A. Williams was elected chief executive of the city of Bismarck, under the new commission system.

The Ross Valley News reports hay very scarce, and warns the farmers that now is the time to sow tame grasses.

Ryder is getting city-like—has a tennis club. The courts can be sprinkled down occasionally with kerosene.

Fargo's Commercial club has been re-organized and the Forum expects that city to be as good as Minot some day.

A French physician has discovered that hot onion poultices are a cure for pneumonia. Pahaw, our mother discovered this twenty-five years ago.

U. G. Morrison, the old time furniture dealer at Granville, will open a meat market in that town, in the building formerly occupied by John C. Ross.

Towner has a brass band, two ball teams, a tennis club, a gun club, a good fire department, and Joe Killion, and ought to go along some this year.

When the orchestra at an entertainment at Fargo played America, the audience arose, till the music died away and then applauded vociferously.

Geo. Poepping, the Burlington farmer, is in the market for an automobile. Geo. says he isn't going to chew the dust of these town dudes any longer.

A Max milliner advertises that she will trade hats for eggs. Come to think about, guess we'd be willing to accept a few dozen nice fresh eggs on subscription.

Wahpeton has hired a waterworks manager at \$100 a month and two assistants at \$60 a month each, and will endeavor to put the plant on a paying basis.

They seem determined to kill off the dogs down at Granville, and some fine bird dogs have been poisoned. Ed. Pierson's blooded dog is the latest victim.

The well drilling machinery has begun work near Joe Wustner's well at Ryder. Mr. Kennedy's drill was sent across country, and is prepared to go down fifteen hundred feet if necessary. The News asserts that it has been proved beyond a question of a doubt that the oil found in the wells was not planted there, because no acids were found, as would have been the case had the oil been planted.

There was a cleaning up last week at Velva, when Louis Stearns, proprietor of the Mouse River Livery and Feed barn, Olaf Fuss, pool hall owner, P. J. Nolan, restaurant, Mrs. Randa, Hungerford Hotel, John Tuman and Jos. Mathias, were arrested, charged with violating the prohibition law. Mathias pleaded guilty, was given 90 days in jail, and fined \$250. The others waived examination. Holding the preliminary at Velva, saved the county \$300 in witness' expenses.

Lame and Diseased Feet. We make a specialty of correcting lame and diseased feet of horses. We invite all classes of horse shoeing. General blacksmithing, plow work, etc. Opposite Grofield's livery barn. Barlow & Hopkins.

Geo. H. Purchase, an attorney at Beach, is charged with adultery by the husband of the woman who brought an action for divorce.

In the "twent" years ago column in the Forum, we note the following interesting item: Chas. H. Bates of Yaniton secured the contract for survey of the government lands in the Mouse River district.

Mr. Boyer of the Rose State Lumber Co. was in this city Saturday looking after business.